

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Kindly amend the claim language in accordance with the following listing of claims, which replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the instant application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-57 (cancelled)

58. (currently amended) A colorant composition suitable as a precursor to an aqueous latex paint, which colorant composition consists essentially of at least one pigment, water, and a copolymer surfactant comprising the following monomers

(a) from about 10% to about 80% by weight of at least one C₃-C₁₂ α,β -ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid or anhydride,

(b) from about 10% to about 80% by weight of at least one C₂-C₁₂ α,β -ethylenically unsaturated vinyl monomer, and

(c) from about 0.01% to about 20% by weight of at least one surfactant monomer, wherein each said surfactant monomer is either an acrylic or methacrylic ester moiety joined ~~to~~ with a hydrophobic moiety by a bridging group consisting essentially of a poly(ethyleneoxy) moiety,

which colorant composition is not itself an aqueous latex paint, and which colorant composition is capable of causing the Stormer low-shear viscosity of an aqueous latex paint formed of a mixture comprising said composition and a tint-base to be within about $\pm 10\%$ of the Stormer low-shear viscosity of said tint-base.

59. (previously presented) The colorant composition of claim 58, which further includes at least one oxygenated solvent.

60. (previously presented) A method of making the colorant composition of claim 58 consisting essentially of admixing said copolymer surfactant, water and said at least one pigment, wherein said at least one pigment is one or more organic pigments, one or more inorganic pigments, or a mixture of one or more organic pigments and one or more inorganic pigments.

61. (previously presented) The method of claim 60, wherein the colorant composition further includes at least one conventional surfactant.

62. (previously presented) The method of claim 61, wherein the conventional surfactant is an anionic surfactant, a nonionic surfactant, an amphoteric surfactant, or a mixture thereof.

63. (previously presented) The method of claim 60, wherein the colorant composition further includes a water-soluble polymer selected from a polycarboxylic acid, a copolymer comprising a monomer containing a carboxylic acid, an alkali soluble emulsion polymer, a cellulose derivative, a salt of a polyacrylic acid, a salt of a copolymer comprising a monomer containing an acrylic acid, polyvinylpyrrolidone, a copolymer comprising vinylpyrrolidone monomer, or a mixture thereof.

64. (previously presented) The method of claim 63, wherein the water-soluble polymer is a salt of a polyacrylic acid, a salt of a copolymer comprising a monomer containing an acrylic acid, or a mixture thereof.

65. (previously presented) The method of claim 60, wherein the inorganic pigment is titanium dioxide white, carbon black, lampblack, black iron oxide, yellow iron oxide, brown iron oxide, red iron oxide, or a mixture thereof.

66. (previously presented) The method of claim 60, wherein the organic pigment is phthalocyanine blue, phthalocyanine green, monoarylide yellow, diarylide yellow, benzimidazolone yellow, heterocyclic yellow, DAN orange, quinacridone magenta, quinacridone violet, organic red, or a mixture thereof.

67. (previously presented) The method of claim 66, wherein the organic red is metallized azo red, a nonmetallized azo red, or a mixture thereof.

68. (currently amended) The colorant composition as defined in claim 58, wherein the copolymer surfactant is formed of the following monomers

- (a) from about 10% to about 80% by weight of methacrylic or acrylic acid,
- (b) from about 10% to about 80% by weight of a first vinyl ester which is alkyl methacrylate, the alkyl of which is of from 2 to 12 carbon atoms, and a second vinyl ester of from 2 to 12 carbon atoms, and
- (c) from about 0.01% to about 20% by weight of ~~a~~ at least one surfactant containing monomer, wherein each said surfactant monomer is either an acrylic or methacrylic ester moiety joined with a hydrophobic moiety by a bridging group consisting essentially of a poly(ethyleneoxy) moiety, and the hydrophobic moiety is either an alkylphenyl or tristyrylphenyl moiety.

69. (previously presented) A method of making the colorant composition of claim 68 consisting essentially of admixing said copolymer surfactant, water and said at least one pigment, wherein said at least one pigment is one or more organic pigments, one or more inorganic pigments, or a mixture of one or more organic pigments and one or more inorganic pigments.

70. (previously presented) A method of claim 69, wherein the colorant composition further includes at least one conventional surfactant.

71. (previously presented) The method of claim 70, wherein the conventional surfactant is an anionic surfactant, a nonionic surfactant, an amphoteric surfactant, or a mixture thereof.

72. (previously presented) The method of claim 69, wherein the colorant composition further includes a water-soluble polymer selected from a polycarboxylic acid, a copolymer comprising a monomer containing a carboxylic acid, an alkali soluble emulsion polymer, a cellulose derivative, a salt of a polyacrylic acid, a salt of a copolymer comprising a monomer containing an acrylic acid, polyvinylpyrrolidone, a copolymer comprising vinylpyrrolidone monomer, or a mixture thereof.

73. (previously presented) The method of claim 72, wherein the water-soluble polymer is a salt of a polyacrylic acid, a salt of a copolymer comprising a monomer containing an acrylic acid, or a mixture thereof.

74. (previously presented) The method of claim 69, wherein the inorganic pigment is titanium dioxide white, carbon black, lampblack, black iron oxide, yellow iron oxide, brown iron oxide, red iron oxide, or a mixture thereof.

75. (previously presented) The method of claim 69, wherein the organic pigment is phthalocyanine blue, phthalocyanine green, monoarylide yellow, diarylide yellow, benzimidazolone yellow, heterocyclic yellow, DAN orange, quinacridone magenta, quinacridone violet, organic red, or a mixture thereof.

76. (previously presented) The method of claim 75, wherein the organic red is metallized azo red, a nonmetallized azo red, or a mixture thereof.

77. (previously presented) The colorant composition of claim 58, wherein the copolymer surfactant is formed of the following monomers

- (a) from about 10% to about 80% by weight of methacrylic or acrylic acid,
- (b) from about 10% to about 80% by weight of ethyl methacrylate, and vinyl acetate, and
- (c) from about 0.01% to about 20% by weight tristyrylphenylpoly(ethyleneoxy) methacrylate.

78. (cancelled)

79. (cancelled)

80. (cancelled)

81. (cancelled)

82. (cancelled)

83. (cancelled)

84. (cancelled)

85. (cancelled)

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92. (cancelled)

93. (cancelled)

94. (cancelled)

95. (cancelled)

96. (cancelled)

97. (cancelled)

98. (cancelled)

99. (cancelled)

100. (cancelled)

101. (cancelled)

102. (previously presented) The colorant composition of claim 58, wherein the copolymer surfactant comprises two surfactant monomers which are the same or different.

103. (currently amended) The colorant composition of claim 58, wherein each said surfactant monomer is either an acrylic or methacrylic ester moiety joined ~~by a poly(ethyleneoxy) moiety to~~ with a hydrophobic moiety selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkylphenyl, monostyrylphenyl, distyrylphenyl and tristyrylphenyl by a bridging group consisting essentially of a poly(ethyleneoxy) moiety.

104. (previously presented) The colorant composition of claim 103, wherein the poly(ethyleneoxy) moiety has from about 4 to about 200 ethyleneoxy units.